

From: Warren Dodge
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 1/24/02 10:08am
Subject: Microsoft Settlement

Hello,

This is a public comment on the proposed settlement between the DOJ and Microsoft. I disapprove of the settlement because it does not punish Microsoft nearly enough for their past wrongdoing and does not prevent them from continuing their habitual anticompetitive practices in the future.

Microsoft has a proven track record of extending their operating system monopoly with anticompetitive practices. Andrew Schulman published a book titled "Undocumented DOS" in the 1980s that exposed particular practices that Microsoft used to make their application programs run better than competitors' programs. By deliberately hiding information and programming APIs from anyone outside of Microsoft, while internally publicizing that information, they guaranteed their programs an (unfair) advantage over their competitors'.

As a professional programmer for more than 12 years, I am firmly convinced that the innovations of the computer industry that Microsoft takes such public credit for, would be much, much further advanced had the company been broken up or regulated back in the days when it was extending its monopoly from the base of the DOS operating system. Many years later, it's hard to restore the balance that was lost, but we must try. They have been a damping influence on computing advancements for many years because of their tremendous size and influence, and their extreme aggressiveness and arrogance. They have proven over time, that they must be actively policed and have the threat of _significant_ punishment brought to bear or they will continue their business in their usual illegal manner.

Thank you for your consideration,

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